

CLAIMS

1. A system for identifying a ruminant being milked, said system including:

5 a transmitter attached to a hind part of the ruminant and operable to transmit a predefined signal identifying the ruminant to which said transmitter is attached; and

10 at least one teat cup positionable on a teat of the ruminant being milked and having an antenna affixed thereto, said antenna operable to receive the predefined signal and to provide the signal via a receiver device to a processor for interpreting the predefined signal thereby identifying the ruminant being milked.

2. A system according to claim 1 wherein said transmitter is adapted for attachment to a hind leg of the ruminant.

15 3. A system according to claim 2 wherein said transmitter is attachable to the hind leg by a strap.

4. A system according to claim 3 wherein said strap is an elastic strap.

20 5. A system according to claim 2 wherein said transmitter is part of a tag, said tag attachable to the hind leg.

6. A system according to claim 5 wherein said tag is an electronic ear tag.

25 7. A system according to claim 1 wherein said transmitter is adapted for attachment above the hock of a hind leg of the ruminant.

8. A system according to claim 1 wherein said transmitter is a transponder.

30 9. A system according to claim 8 wherein said system further includes a stationary interrogation unit, said unit including a transmitter and a receiver.

10. A system according to claim 8 wherein said transponder is adapted for attachment to a hind leg of the ruminant.

5 11. A system according to claim 10 wherein said transponder is attachable to the hind leg by a strap.

12. A system according to claim 11 wherein said strap is an elastic strap.

10 13. A system according to claim 10 wherein said transponder is part of a tag, said tag attachable to the hind leg.

14. A system according to claim 13 wherein said tag is an electronic ear tag.

15 15. A system according to claim 8 wherein said transponder is adapted for attachment above the hock of a hind leg of the ruminant.

16. A teat cup for positioning on a teat of a ruminant during milking, said teat cup including:

20 a flow-through vessel for collecting milk from the ruminant; and
 an antenna affixed to said vessel to receive a signal that identifies the animal on which the teat cup is positioned.

25 17. A teat cup according to claim 16 further including a casing for enclosing said antenna and holding it to said teat cup.

18. A teat cup according to claim 17 wherein said casing is constructed of a flexible waterproof material.

30 19. A teat cup according to claim 16 wherein said teat cup is constructed of plastic material and said antenna is encased in said plastic material during the process of

manufacture of said teat cup.

20. A method for identifying a ruminant, said method including the steps of:

attaching a means for collecting milk to a teat of a ruminant, the means for
5 collecting milk having an antenna affixed thereto;

affixing a transmitter to a hind part of the ruminant, the transmitter
transmitting a predefined signal identifying the ruminant;

receiving the transmitted predefined signal by the antenna; and

transferring the predefined signal via a receiver device to a processor
10 which processes the signal and identifies the ruminant on which the means for
collecting milk is attached.

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein said affixing step is a step of affixing
a transponder.

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22. A method according to claim 20 wherein said affixing step is effected by
affixing the transmitter to a hind leg of the ruminant.

23. A method according to claim 22 wherein said affixing step is effected by
20 affixing the transmitter to a hind leg of the ruminant using a strap.

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein said affixing step is effected by
affixing the transmitter to a hind leg of the ruminant using an elastic strap.

25 25. A method according to claim 22 wherein said affixing step is effected by
affixing the transmitter to a hind leg of the ruminant above the hock.

26. A method according to claim 20 wherein said affixing step is effected by
affixing the transmitter as part of a tag attachable to a hind leg of the ruminant.

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